By Louis Sako

 $\underline{\text{http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Synod,-an-opportunity-to-stop-the-Christian-exodus-from-Ira}} \\ \text{q-19703.html}$

The Christians in the Middle East were in the early twentieth century, 20% of the population, but today, they account for less than 10%. In Iraq, according to the **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom**

, there were approximately one million Christians in Iraq prior to the war. Today, there are only about 500,000.